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Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Guyana,* Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Turkey and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: revised draft resolution

Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its objectives, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations of achieving international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate totally and unconditionally racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination and its conviction that racism and racial discrimination constitute a total negation of the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[2] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 December 1960,[3]

Noting the efforts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination since its establishment in 1970 to promote the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 49, No. 6193.

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Recalling the outcome of the two World Conferences to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held at Geneva in 1978[4] and in 1983,[5]

Recalling also the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, and, in particular, the attention given in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[6] to the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance,

Stressing the importance and sensitivity of the activities of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Recalling with satisfaction the proclamation of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which began in 1993, as well as adoption of the revised Programme of Action for the Third Decade by its resolutions 48/91 of 20 December 1993 and 49/146 of 23 December 1994, respectively,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the efforts of the international community, the principal objectives of the two previous Decades for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination have not been attained and that millions of human beings continue to this day to be the victims of varied forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Noting also with great concern that, despite the efforts undertaken by the international community at various levels, racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, ethnic antagonism and acts of violence are showing signs of increase in many parts of the world, as well as the increasing number of associations established on the basis of racist and xenophobic platforms and charters, as reflected in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,[7]

Alarmed that technological developments in the field of communication, including the Internet, continue to be utilized by various groups engaged in violent activity, for promoting racist and xenophobic propaganda aimed at inciting racial hatred, as well as the collection of funds to sustain violent campaigns against multi-ethnic societies throughout the world,

Noting that the use of such technologies can also contribute to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary-General[8] within the framework of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1998 in which it requested the Secretary-General to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recognizing the importance of strengthening national legislation and institutions for the promotion of racial harmony and for the effective enforcement of such legislation,

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[4] See *Report of the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 14-25 August 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.XIV.2).

[5] See *Report of the second World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, Geneva, 1-12 August 1983* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.XIV.4 and corrigendum).

[6] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[7] A/54/347.

[8] A/54/299.

Remaining firmly convinced of the need to take more effective and sustained measures at the national and international levels for the elimination of all forms of racism and racial discrimination,

Deeply concerned about the fact that the phenomenon of racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers continues to increase despite efforts undertaken by the international community to improve the protection of the human rights of migrant workers and members of their families,

Recalling the adoption at its forty-fifth session of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families,[9]

Acknowledging that indigenous people are at times victims of particular forms of racism and racial discrimination,

I
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and coordination of activities

1. *Welcomes* the report submitted by the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Reaffirms* that racism and racial discrimination are among the most serious violations of human rights in the contemporary world, and expresses its firm determination and its commitment to eradicate, by all available means, racism, in all its forms, and racial discrimination;

3. *Urges* all Governments to take all necessary measures to combat new forms of racism, in particular by constantly adapting the means provided to combat them, especially in the legislative, administrative, educational and information fields;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give a high priority to the follow-up to programmes and activities for combating racism and racial discrimination consistent with the need to ensure the effective preparation of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General in his reports on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to accord special attention to and provide information on the situation of migrant workers in this regard;

6. *Calls upon* all Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[9] as a matter of priority;

7. *Commends* all States that have ratified or acceded to the international instruments to combat racism and racial discrimination, especially the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[2] and the Convention against Discrimination in Education;[5]

8. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in order to achieve its universal ratification;

9. *Urges* States to limit the extent of any reservation they lodge to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the objective and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible

[9] Resolution 45/158, annex.

with international treaty law; to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them; and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the objective and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

10. *Encourages* the mass media to promote ideas of tolerance and understanding among peoples and between different cultures;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to draw attention to the effects of racial discrimination on minorities and migrant workers and members of their families, especially children and women, in the fields of education, training and employment, and to submit in his report specific recommendations for the implementation of measures to combat such discrimination;

12. *Recognizes* the need for adequate support and financial resources for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and its Programme of Action and requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session concrete proposals on how to ensure the financial and personnel resources required for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including through the regular budget of the United Nations and extrabudgetary sources;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* to those who have made contributions to the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, strongly appeals to all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals in a position to do so to contribute generously to the Fund and, to this end, requests the Secretary-General to continue to undertake the appropriate contacts and initiatives;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of expert seminars held on the activities of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

15. *Welcomes* the establishment of the racism project team in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to coordinating all activities of the Third Decade;

16. *Urges* all Governments, the Secretary-General, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, in implementing the Programme of Action for the Third Decade, to pay particular attention to the situation of indigenous people;

17. *Requests* States to consider the relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the integrated follow-up to previous world conferences and the need to make optimum use of all available mechanisms in the struggle against racism;

18. *Strongly underlines* the importance of education as a significant means of preventing and eradicating racism and racial discrimination and of creating awareness of principles of human rights, particularly among young people, and, in this regard, requests the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its work on the preparation and dissemination of teaching materials and teaching aids to promote teaching, training and educational activities on human rights and against racism and racial discrimination, with particular emphasis on activities at the primary and secondary levels of education;

19. *Considers* that all parts of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade should be given equal attention in order to attain the objectives of the Decade;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to accord a high priority to the activities of the Programme of Action and, in this regard, also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the necessary financial resources are provided for the implementation of the activities of the Third Decade during the biennium 2000-2001;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, containing an analysis of information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination;

22. *Invites* the Secretary-General to submit proposals to the General Assembly which would assist with the full implementation of the Programme of Action;

23. *Reiterates its calls* upon all Governments, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and interested non-governmental organizations to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

II
World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

24. *Recalls* its resolutions 52/111 of 12 December 1997 and 53/132 of 9 December 1998 in which it established that the Commission on Human Rights will act as the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78 of 28 April 1999[10] and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/12 of 27 July 1999;

25. *Recommends* that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference give consideration to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, including the recommendation contained in paragraph 41 (b) of his report to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;[11]

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that adequate financial resources are made available for the preparatory process of the World Conference, including from the regular budget of the United Nations;

27. *Requests* that the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights make every effort to ensure the mobilization of resources for the voluntary fund for the World Conference to cover the participation of the least developed countries in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself and requests all Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to contribute to the fund;

28. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to help States and regional organizations, on request, to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference and urges the specialized agencies and the United Nations regional commissions, in coordination with the High Commissioner, to contribute to the holding of regional preparatory meetings;

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[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 3* (E/1999/23-E/CN.4/1999/167), chap. II, sect. A.

[11] A/53/269.

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and the regional economic commissions to provide financial and technical assistance for the organization of the regional preparatory meetings planned in the context of the World Conference and stresses that such assistance should be supplemented by voluntary contributions;

30. *Decides* that the World Conference and the sessions of the Preparatory Committee should be open to participation by:

(a) All States Members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

(b) All regional organizations and commissions involved in the preparation of regional meetings, as well as associate members of the United Nations regional commissions;

(c) Representatives of organizations which have received from the General Assembly a standing invitation to participate as observers;

(d) The specialized agencies, secretariats of the regional commissions and all United Nations bodies and programmes;

(e) Representatives of all United Nations mechanisms in the field of human rights;

(f) Other interested governmental organizations, which shall be represented by observers;

(g) Interested non-governmental organizations to be represented by observers in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996;

31. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of South Africa to host the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001;

32. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

(a) To undertake a study to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its first session on ways of improving coordination between her Office and all specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations in the field of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) To continue to devise and implement, with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing public opinion to the importance and the objectives of the World Conference, to publish in all the official languages of the United Nations an information pamphlet to be made available to non-governmental organizations, the media and the general public and to inform the Preparatory Committee of the developments in this regard;

(c) To help States, upon request, and regional organizations to convene national and regional meetings or to undertake other initiatives, including at the expert level, to prepare for the World Conference;

(d) To draw up a draft agenda for the first session of the Preparatory Committee, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the need to address in a comprehensive manner all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related contemporary forms of intolerance;

(e) To continue fundraising activities in order to increase the resources for the voluntary fund established specifically to cover all aspects of the preparatory process for the World Conference and the participation of non-governmental organizations, particularly from developing countries;

33. *Welcomes* the proposals made by the open-ended working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the themes for the World Conference;

34. *Decides* that the World Conference will be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism, including through measures of prevention, education and protection and the provision of effective remedies, taking into full consideration the existing human rights instruments;

35. *Requests* the Preparatory Committee to begin as soon as possible the drafting process of a final document with specific goals, as well as objectives and timetables for their achievement;

36. *Appeals* to Member States to contribute generously to the voluntary fund for the World Conference to cover the preparatory process and the World Conference and the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries;

37. *Requests* Governments, the specialized agencies, other international organizations, concerned United Nations bodies, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants and other human rights mechanisms to assist the Preparatory Committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the preparations therefor to the Preparatory Committee through the Secretary-General and to participate actively in the Conference;

38. *Calls upon* States and regional organizations to hold national or regional meetings or to take other initiatives such as public information campaigns to raise awareness of the World Conference in preparation for the World Conference and requests regional preparatory meetings to submit reports to the Preparatory Committee, through the Secretary-General, on the outcome of their deliberations, including practical and action-oriented recommendations to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

III
Proclamation of the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

39. *Strongly reaffirms* the proclamation of the year 2001 as the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and, in this context, calls upon Governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to observe the International Year in a suitable manner, including through programmes of action;

IV
General

40. *Decides* to keep the item entitled "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" on its agenda and to consider it as a matter of high priority at its fifty-fifth session.